



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 029430-465

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Yosihisa SATOH et al.) Group Art Unit: 1755
Application No.: 09/720,676) Examiner: Edmund Lee
Filed: December 29, 2000) Confirmation No.: 4205
For: SYNTHETIC RESIN MOLDING,)
MOLD APPARATUS FOR AND)
METHOD OF ADJUSTING A)
TEMPERATURE OF THE MOLD)

RESPONSE TO UNITY OF INVENTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction/unity of invention requirement set forth in the Official Action dated October 22, 2003, applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group I which currently contains claims 1-15 (the reference to claim 5 is believed to be in error in light of the claimed subject matter of claims 6-15 and the absence of such claims in any other group). This election is made with traverse with respect to the subject matter of Group III.

In the present application, there is a single independent claim which relates to a defined synthetic resin molding mold. The claims of Group III relate to a method and apparatus for adjusting the temperature of the mold defined in the claims of Group I. Thus, all the claims of Group III relate directly or indirectly to the mold as defined in Group I and therefore have a special technical feature common to all claims. To place this

into perspective, the Examiner's attention is directed to the illustrative examples concerning unity of invention which are set forth in the MPEP starting at page AI-67. For instance, Example 6 sets forth the following claim arrangement:

- Claim 1: A fuel burner with tangential fuel inlets into a mixing chamber.
- Claim 2: A process for making a fuel burner including the step of forming tangential fuel inlets into a mixing chamber.
- Claim 3: A process for making a fuel burner including casting step A.
- Claim 4: An apparatus for carrying out a process for making a fuel burner including feature X resulting in the formation of tangential fuel inlets.
- Claim 5: An apparatus for carrying out a process for making a fuel burner including a protective housing B.
- Claim 6: A process of manufacturing carbon black including the step of tangentially introducing fuel into a mixing chamber of a fuel burner.

For this arrangement of claims, the conclusion in the MPEP is that unity exists between claims 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Group III provide a situation where unity similarly exists. Indeed, for the apparatus claims, the Examiner's attention is respectfully further directed to the examples on pages AI-69 and AI-70 of the MPEP where subcombinations and combinations of various apparatus claims are found to share the same special technical feature and provide unity of invention.

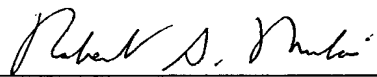
As to the method claims of Group III, applicants additionally note the applicability of the rejoinder provisions of MPEP §821.04 and reserve the right to request rejoinder in the event that the claims of Group I are found allowable.

Favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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